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Insane facts about Ireland

IRELAND SOMETIMES GETS AN IMAGE OF BEING ALL SHAMROCKS, LEPRECHAUNS AND GUINNESS. BUT THE EMERALD ISLE IS MUCH MORE THAN THAT, AND IT BOASTS A RICH HERITAGE, CULTURE AND CUISINE. TO ILLUSTRATE OUR POINT, HERE ARE 50 FACTS ABOUT IRELAND.

GEOGRAPHY

120 Ireland's ranking among the world's nations by size. It is 70,273 square kilometres.

3rd Ireland's rank in a list of European islands by size.

1,041m The height of Ireland's highest peak, Carrauntoohil.

Black Pool Irish capital Dublin began life as Dubh Linn, which means 'Black Pool'.

Zinc

Ireland is home to Europe's largest zinc mine.

1,365

The number of kilometres of railway for use solely by Irish Peat Board for transporting peat.

Irish capital Dublin began life as Dubh Linn, which means 'Black Pool'.

HISTORY

The White House Was designed by Irishman James Hoban, who won a competition in 1792 allowing him to create the building.

25 The number of minutes behind Greenwich Mean Time Irish clocks used to be set at. This was called Dublin Mean Time.

WW2

Ireland didn't enter the Second World War, choosing to remain neutral. Some Irish men nonetheless left the Irish Army to join the British Army.

PEOPLE

Sir James Martin

An engineer from Co. Down who invented the world's first ejector seat.



126 The number of times Robbie Keane has played football for Ireland, making him the country's most capped player.

Obama

President Obama claims Irish heritage, his great great grandfather emigrated from Ireland to the US.

Nigeria

As well as Ireland, St Patrick is also the patron Saint of Nigeria.

Maewyn Succat

Is believed to be St Patrick's real name, St Patrick really did exist.

Jack AND Emily

1970s The decade St Patrick's Day became the party occasion we've now grown used to.

Shamrock

The clover that is used to represent all things Irish was originally used to represent the Holy Trinity.

Boycott

The word originated in Ireland after landowner Charles Boycott refused to drop his rents. A 'boycott' took place.

Polish

The largest group of non-Irish people living in Ireland. It used to be people from the UK.

Poland

70 million The number of people in the world who claim to have Irish heritage.

1840s

The decade Ireland was introduced to Bicarbonate of Soda, which gave rise to Irish Soda Bread.

1,184

The number of cups of tea drunk by the average Irish person each year, making it the biggest tea-drinking nation per capita.

16 The number of whiskey distilleries active in Ireland, producing single malts and blends.

180 The alcohol by volume (ABV) figure of some Irish Poitin. The drink used to be illegal.

Ossified, flustered, scuttled Various Irish words used to mean 'drunk'.

119.5 The number of seconds taken to pour a 'perfect' Guinness.

4th Ireland's rank in a list of the world's biggest consumers of beer, per-person.

Austria

Czech Republic

Germany

Ireland

10th Ireland's rank in the table of the best countries in the world for children to grow up in.

1083 points

Ronan O'Gara the top point scorer in Irish Rugby Union history as well as the player with the most appearances.

115 million

The amount, in Euros, won by Limerick's Dolores McNamee on the Euromillions lottery – Ireland's biggest win to date.

22 The number of Grammy awards won by Irish rockers U2.

7 Eurovision

The number of times Ireland has won the Eurovision Song Contest, more than any other nation.

1,693

The number of people who Riverdanced in Dublin to earn their place in the world records for the most people dancing in a continuous line.

1876

The year Guinness registered the harp as its symbol. This was before it became the national symbol of Ireland.

76.8 The percentage of the Irish population that uses the internet (2011).

25% The percentage of people in Ireland who claim to be language experts. Language experts claim it could be as low as 3%.

1995

The year Playboy magazine became legal in Ireland.

80.44

The average life expectancy at birth in Ireland.

Tedfest

An annual event celebrating the Ireland-set sitcom Father Ted.

15m Euros

The cost of implementing a system of postcodes for Ireland. Currently it's the only EU country without one.

Snakes

There are no wild snakes in Ireland, nor have there ever been, despite the legends.

15th

Ireland's rank in a list of 178 countries by economic, political and social stability.

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